THE THIRD DAY.

17th February 1915.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 17th February 1915.

20. The desirability of nominating a Christian member from South Travancore to the Legislative Council.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that communal representation in the Legislative Council was necessary in the peculiar conditions of the State. The country was marked by various conflicting castes and creeds and the people of one caste or class very seldom elected a representative from another caste or class even on account of merit or other considerations. The representative so elected seldom represented the interests of other castes or classes. He added that the castes or classes, which had such representation in the Councils of the State, obtained special economic or political advantages to the detriment of others and that the interests of Government also suffered by the non-representation of any important caste or class. In view of the large Christian population in the State, there should be at least three non-official members from them in the Council, two from North Travancore and one from South Travancore, based on territorial area. The Christians of South Travancore had little chance of electing one from amongst them as a member of the Council in the existing conditions of election, as they could not secure a majority for the purpose in the Assembly. The Christians of South Travancore had attained marked progress in modern civilisation and they deserved, in point of literacy and wealth, to have a representative in the Council. Divisional representation by election being the chief principle for the election of the non-official members of the Council, the community which the Member represented had not yet gained any political influence or power in the country. He therefore requested that a provision for the representation of the South Travancore Christian community in the Legislative Council should be urgently made in the general interests of that community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. The necessity for the creation of separate electorates for Christians for the purpose of securing representation in the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappila (Member, T. I. C., Thiruvalla) said that, in the Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, the two important popular institutions in the State, the Christians were ill-represented and they had little prospect of increasing the number of their representatives in the said institutions under the existing rules of election. The number of taluk representatives in the Assembly, who were Christians, was always very limited. The Christians constituted more than one-fourth of the total population of the State and, in point of literacy too, they occupied no inferior position compared to other classes. The chief reason why the Christians were ill-represented in the Assembly in spite of their numerical strength and high literacy was that there were very few Christians who paid a Sirkar kist of Rs. 50 and who, therefore, satisfied one condition of election. That disability was chiefly due to the partition of Makkathayam property. The Member therefore requested that a minimum number of members might be allotted to taluks with a large Christian population, or to each revenue division, or to special territorial areas which might be decided on by the Government. He then said that the voters' lists were defective so far as the Christians were concerned. To obviate the evil, he suggested that the list of voters should be published in the Gazette sufficiently early to admit of errors and omissions being rectified.

As regards the Legislative Council, ever since the right of election of members to the Council was granted to the Assembly, the election fell to the lot of Nairs only,

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